WENDELL POST

Vol. X no 1 APRIL/MAY 1987 50¢

PLANS FOR NEW GARAGE/FIRE STATION

The big news is that the proposed Powling site has been bought and paid for--at last!

The services of an Amherst architectural firm, Austin & Kitchell, have been secured: they will cooperate with the County Engineer. As yet, no design has been selected, but shortly this will be decided and then the job will be put to public bidding.

The interests of the Town of Wendell in this on-going process are the special responsibility of Rick Drohen, who maintains liaison between the Town Road Commission and the architects, and of Ted Lewis representing the Select Board.

After the completion of the bidding, a contractor will be selected and the official ground-breaking can take place.

Charles Thompson Smith

Paul Diemand and Parker Cleveland supervise scraping and painting primer coat on Wendell Comm. Church April 11. Church should get a final coat! Contributions are needed badly; Send c/o Parker, Moosehorn Rd., Orange 01364

Ah

Ah, Springtime of Life
travel your heart!

It is a well worn path.
You are as precious as
the drops of rain
that fall today.

Onward sail your soul
to journeys never ending
glories to behold.

Clare Green

SELECTMAN RESIGNS

Selectman Jim Slavas will be resigning effective the date of the annual election, and at present there is nobody running for the remaining two years on his term.

Jim said that his decision to resign was due to a combination of factors: the increasing amount of time needed to do the job, a frustration with community attitudes, and the desire to devote more time to other parts of his life including a recently formed preservation/limited development partnership.

cont. 3 =>

ELECTION ISSUE

WENDELL

Elections Monday May 4th
polls open 10 am to 8 pm

Annual Town Meeting Thursday May 7
7 pm

NEW SALEM

Elections Monday May 4th
polls open 11:45am to 8pm

Annual Town Meeting Monday may 11
7:30 pm

TAX COLLECTIONS:
HOW PROMPT?

	60 Days, % Collected		
	1984	1985	1986
Wendell	88% 91%*	78% 89%*	63% 69%*
Warwick	90-94%	90-94%	90-94%
Northfield	99%	99%	99%

* % collected by 2-21-87

(Figures for Wendell provided by Judith Wilder, tax collector. Figures for Warwick and Northfield provided by Shared Administrative Assistant Deb Radway).

TAX PAYMENTS LATE

Figures from Judith Wilder, tax collector, show tax collections have dropped dramatically during the last three years. This is the same time period as the town's persistent revaluation problems, which have forced tax bills to be sent out late or as estimates or both.

The trend is striking. In fiscal 1984, taxpayers sent in checks totalling 88% of the tax billing within sixty days. The comparable figure for 1985 was 78%, and by 1986 the figure was only 63% (see chart).

By February 21 of this year, Wilder reports, more payments had come in for each of these billings, bringing collections to the vicinity of 90% for both 1984 and 1985, still relatively low. The latest fiscal year fully billed (1986) shows only 70% collected by Feb. 21.

Whether the fault for slow payments is in the late billings or something else, the record by Wendell taxpayers creates a "vicious cycle" according to Selectman Michael Idoine, that makes government more costly even as the town's ability to pay plummets.

cont. pg 3 =>

WENDELL POST

Vol. X No. 1

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Special thanks to Bruce Wilson of Wendell Depot for the front page art work.

Thanks to Bob Ellis for the art on p. 9.

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Happy Birthday!

With this issue, the "Wendell Post" marks its tenth year of continuous existance, thanks to the volunteer efforts of its care-takers. Thank you, everyone!

Considering War Tax Refusal

To the "Post"

Could you imagine the Selectmen in Wendell saying, "OK, we are going to take 50% of the town's tax money this year and use it to harass, maim, and kill people in Erving until they see this Rt. 2 thing our way?" We would, of course, find the very idea absurd and refuse to allow the selectmen to use our taxes in such a way.

Is it any different then, with federal income taxes from which 63% goes to the military for payment on past, present, and future wars?

If Washington doesn't like a newly formed government, then in the name of democracy and freedom it asks us to finance torture, murder and propaganda to overthrow that government. If the US government does not particularly care for a certain dictator but that leader is sympathetic to US military and economic concerns, it will finance military support for that dictator. Disrupted lives, violence, brutality, and killing purchased with

To the Wendell Post:

In the last issue of the Wendell Post there appeared an editorial. The opinion expressed was submitted by Jonathan von Ranson, with the approval of various key members of the staff. As one of the approvers, I was under the impression that I was okaying the draft of a signed letter. I continue to have doubts that a paper with no editors can presume to have editorials. This notion is at question. This experience makes me need to request some clarity in our policies. I hope people who consider themselves active in this paper will determine further what are fair procedures, and that the outcome be written in the paper to preserve it.

Kathy Becker
Locke Hill Road

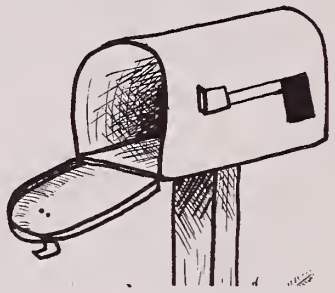
To the Wendell Post:

It is with great sadness that I am again forced by my country's military policies, to withhold payment of federal taxes. I cannot in good conscience help to pay for the probable destruction of our globe (nuclear weapons) or the mindless arming of other countries, even those dealing in blatant terrorism. I am ashamed of us!

This is the strongest protest I can think of and it is with full knowledge that it is our freedom and right as Americans that dictates our ability and responsibilty to right what is wrong in government.

Now the world (including U.S.A.) is playing with micro-wave bombs which promise to alter people's brains as well as doing other horrible physical damage. I cannot participate.

Sincerely,
Susan Dunlany



To the Post readers:

Last year I wrote a story about the phone service and how many times I would go to use the phone I could not because of no dial tone, the number not going through or one of many other things. At the time my suggestion was to call telephone repair because that is the only way they are going to know how lousy the service is. I did that for a while, then it got ridiculous. For almost every phone call I'd make I would be also calling telephone repair. I stopped calling the phone company because it seemed like I was spending so much more time on the phone which is something I, at the time, didn't want to deal with. I think perhaps I also used the phone less anyway. Well, it's Wendell Post election issue again and one of my jobs is to call all candidates. I was using the phone again alot and realized once again how lousy the service is so I'm calling telephone repair. The number is 1-555-1611. I urge anyone who has a problem to memorize the number and try to call everytime you have a problem. Some days I've called them six times. It's a drag to spend the time tied to a machine like that, but the phone is something that so many of us depend on that if we want to change it, this is what we have to do. Let them hear from us because if they don't they won't realize the problem and we will continue to pay good money for lousy service.

Anne Diemand

War Tax Letter cont'

personal income and phone taxes. It is just as real and unjustifiable regardless of whether it happens in a neighboring town or on a neighboring continent.

With high tech weaponry and paid mercenaries, it takes money more than soldiers to wage war. A case in point is that the drafting of young men into military (dis)service is currently inactive yet the federal government's active draft of income and phone taxes is amply fueling a war in Nicaragua, and an unending nuclear and chemical weapons buildup.

Yet people continue to pay their federal income taxes. Why is it that we can allow cruel injustice to occur daily in one place while refusing to allow it in another? Are the lives of latin Americans or Philippinos less important to us than those of our neighbors in Erving? Or is it that with distance the truth of what is happening becomes less real to us; for we are not faced with the routine torture of our friends and family?

To question is to have the burden of finding the truth placed upon ourselves. It means introspection with a possible finding of complicity and guilt. It means change; changing the way we see things and how we act accordingly.

All of us are familiar with the old saying about how people don't like change. More to the point, perhaps, is that people fear change, especiallyif it means one is deciding to refuse to pay their federal income taxes.

To refuse paying federal income taxes puts us at risk of losing those things which make us feel secure and free. In light of how vague the suffering of distant people is to us, we are not readily convinced to put ourselves at risk.

But by turning our backs on the truth we lose more than security, we lose a part of our humanity. And so, when we see for ourselves the wrongs done in our name and with our money, how do we refuse taking part in them?

In March, members of Pioneer Valley War Tax Resis tance who live in Wendell held an evening potluck and discussion on the matter of war tax refusal. About 25 people attended to talk about the philosophy, history, methods, and consequences of war tax refusal. Throughout the evening we realized that we share many common values that, perhaps, lead us to tax refusal.

Supporting each other as we live according to these values makes the uncertainty about our futures easier to take. In the event that our home is on the IRS auction block, the fact that we have someplace else to stay may give us the strength to endure our loss. If we must leave our job because IRS take s our paycheck for its uses, then the monetary support of our friends helps to feed and clothe our family.

If we recognize and foster our interdependence based on faith in community and nonviolence, then we provide the security we need with each other to face squarely the possible consequences brought by living our beliefs.

Rosie Heidkamp
Eileen Sauvageau

SELECTMAN RESIGNS cont. ...

In explaining his decision, Jim spoke both of a decline in community involvement in town government and a lack of respect for those who do volunteer their time. There were more people involved in town affairs when he came here in 1971 when there were only a few hundred people in town than there are now, he said.

He noted a tendency to consider town officials "servants." Mentioning in particular the selectboard, treasurer, assessors, and tax collector, he said it was "unfair to give them a lot of responsibility, $500 a year, and expect them to do a job that you'd have to pay $5,000 to $6,000 apiece for in the outside world." He said he has "a problem with most of the boards not doing some of the work they should be doing, but I can't criticize them--no one else is doing the work. If the townspeople are chosing not to help out, then they are going to have to pay for it," he said, adding, "They can't exploit the few fools who are willing to run for office."

He feels "Something is changing in town. It's not just Wendell--all the towns around. People are less likely to do things for themselves." He also notices a feeling that a local official who expresses a desire to be paid is somehow "a thief." "Why," he asked, "is my time less valuable than anyone else's?"

In the end, though, it was all three factors combined that led him to his decision, he stressed.

The Isleborough Group, named for a group of well-preserved and protected islands in Maine, includes Dick Baldwin and Nancy Hazard as well as Jim. It was formed last fall to finance land preservation through limited development. Jim explained that in his experience, land trusts always seem to be working on a hand-to-mouth basis, never able to purchase and protect as much land as they'd like. "It became clear that you need money to protect land," he said. The group hopes to buy large pieces of land, identify the areas for preservation, create a limited number of house lots on "more marginal" sections, donate the rest of the land to the town for preservation, and make enough profit to allow them to continue this cycle. A similar venture in Connecticut was able to preserve three or four times more land taking this approach than when they were working only with conservation, he said.

Jim feels "Ted and Michael and I have really made an effort to keep the town and the selectboard open. I feel we've been very responsive to a lot of issues." He is proud of helping open communication between town officials. "This selectboard has done a lot. I'm sad to leave it. I think the three of us have meshed really well together."

Said Jim toward the end of our interview, "Say we hired an administrative assistant...I'd stay on the board." He added that he does not see this happening in the immediate future.

Though a full time position stands to be partially reimbursed by the state, Jim is not optimistic that an assistant for boards other than the tax collector and treasurer is likely to be funded at this time.

"You need a little more coming back from it," concluded Jim. If I had a feeling of support, just a few strokes, anyway,.. It makes it a little easier. It's not only saying, 'You're doing a good job, pat, pat, pat.' It's saying, 'You're doing a good job, and I'd like to help out'!"

Marianne Sundell

LATE PAYMENTS cont. ...

Shared administrative assistant Deb Radway said the tax collection figures are "very dramatic. They speak directly to Wendell's financial woes."

Here's how: During the past year or so the selectboard has resorted to borrowing close to $200,000 in short-term notes to pay current expenses. Meanwhile, fiscal 1987 tax bills can't be sent out until "a month or more" after a Proposition 2½ override election, scheduled April 15, says Jessie Wetherby of the board of assessors. During all this time, the town is paying interest instead of receiving it from interest-bearing accounts as it customarily does -- a double jeopardy that demonstrates municipally how the poor get poorer.

Mrs. Wilder has meanwhile requested a budget for clerical help. The town is spending right up to its Proposition 2½ limits, and there's no room without paring back other departments or overriding the levy limit. Ironically, the override vote is to correct an error in Wendell's calculation of state reimbursements and balance the present budget...not to get help for either the assessors' or tax collector's offices. Her request will wait until the next budget is set in May, a budget that may create pressure for another override.

Unless a miracle happens, like a "mob of volunteers" in the words of Selectboard Chairman Michael Idoine, the town is somehow going to have to allocate money for clerical help for both the assessors' and collector's offices. "It's no longer ethical to ask those people (in the money management offices) to continue at their present compensation," he said. Though he obviously hates to raise town expenses, he feels "We'll get back and then some if we can keep the money moving." But Harry Williston, town accountant, warned, "People are slow paying now. You give them bigger bills and people on fixed incomes and lower incomes will have a helluva time trying to pay."

Idoine lays the blame for the town's fiscal crisis on three factors: "One, the Sudbury decision (requiring fair market valuation), two, the demands of Proposition 2½ (limiting taxes), and three, a bigger town" (meaning services must be provided to more people, though most new houses don't entirely pay their way taxwise). As far as Wendell's growth is concerned, it has prompted a steady rise in its share of the school operating budget, for example, while the town's valuation has risen less sharply. In the process, general government services, like Mrs. Wilder's tax collector's office and the office of the assessor, have had to contend with steady-state budgets while the school department ate up most of the 2½ leeway during each of the last several years. When inflation is taken into account, most general government departments have lost ground.

Knowing the town's tale of woe, Mrs. Wilder said "Most of us (town officials) don't feel comfortable asking for money from the selectboard. But my job, the treasurer's and the assessors need some help. I've asked for maybe one to two part-time clerks." Besides repeated bills and warnings, her office has the authority to initiate procedures to take away drivers licenses of tax delinquents and attach property. "But," she said, "it takes time."

- Jonathan von Ranson

BONDING & BORROWING

Wendell's indebtedness is about to take a leap. The town presently owes about $209,000, some $200,000 of which is in short term notes in anticipation of tax revenues, and $9,000 of which is in two bonds, both nearly paid off.

As a result of recent authorizations by the voters at special town meetings, $1.4 million or so will be borrowed soon through the sale of bonds. (Of this amount, a little over $1 million, for the additions to Swift River School, is 80% reimbursable by the state). Until the current debts are retired, then, the town will owe almost $1.6 million, about 2½ times its current annual budget.

The highest level of indebtedness permitted by state law for a town is 5% of the town's equalized valuation. Wendell's equalized valuation is around $16 million, according to Town Accountant Harry Williston. Added together, the debts listed equal roughly 10% of that figure. The precise impact on the town's tax rate has not been.

BORROWING BY WENDELL

BONDS		
Swift R. Schl. add'n	$1,011,522*	authorized
Preschool add'n	56,110*	authorized
Town garage/fire station	220,000	authorized
Dump truck	6,000	borrowed
Loader	3,000	borrowed
SHORT TERM NOTES		
Borrowed in anticip. of revenues	200,000	borrowed
	$1,596,632	

*80% reimbursable by state

MAPLE VALLEY - a tough winter

BY Susan DunLany

Maple Valley School is pulling through the winter with some big changes after enduring staff and enrollment losses last fall. The DeSisto affiliation came to the financial rescue of the school, Mitchell Kosh, Executive Director, reports, and has been very supportive during the changes.

The decision was made to be limited to all boys. With Director Roger Smith's departure in the fall, and also losing the residential director, Dennis Coache, administration changes and reorganization meant the remaining staff was spread very thin. Running a co-ed school takes a lot of good staff and extra work, Kosh admits.

Trish White, the day director under Smith is now the director. The job of residential director has been spread between three employees, all elevated to supervisory positions. (Teresa Gordon, Bob Perrell, Rich Peloquin). Consolidation included the closing of the "white house" a girls' dorm across Wendell Depot Road from the main school. Kosh says this will be reopened soon as a dorm for the higher level boys.

Do the boys miss the girls these days? "They were upset at first," Kosh says. "But now it's a relief in a way. The boys can focus on their own issues, not be distracted by the added stimulation."

The present enrollment is 21 boys. The school hopes to grow with the help of better and added staff, and even try going co-ed again in the future. Kosh sees the enrollment going up to about 35.

The school is appealing to the town for new night staff. If interested in working one or more evenings or nights a week, people should contact the office at 544-6913. Kosh suggests that if a person is unsure how he/she would fit in, to come in and try it for a few hours. Substitutes are also needed.

Susan DunLany was one of the many volunteers who worked together to give the Wendell Center church a face-lift. Looks like a big job.

Community Church

Last month the Wendell Church received notification that our liability insurance had quintupled for the year 1987. The small group of people who are meeting regularly in the building cannot afford $500.00 per year for the liability insurance. Most of our limited bank account was depleted by the repairs made on the building last year. We lack sufficient funds to complete these repairs. We cannot even afford to buy the paint for the work group Paul Diemand has organized in April.

If people in town wish to continue to use the building for activities such as weddings, memorial services, child care and meetings we will need help meeting our expenses. One dollar a month from fifty people could keep the building open. Our deadline is April 30th, and we need more than just vague promises to pay the bills. Anyone with money, fundraising ideas or energy please let us know.

The small group that now calls itself the Wendell Church includes: Jackie Ricketts, Charles Thompson Smith, Parker Cleveland, Christine Sullivan, Pamela Hathaway-Perrell and Sylvia Wetherby.

We feel the need to make it clear that the Wendell Church is not the building. The group of people that meet weekly and share spiritual ties do accept custody of the building for as long as we are financially able to do so. However, we are not dependent upon that building for existence. In fact, the building has long inhibited our ability to practice 'true religion' in the terms set down in James, 1:27 'the care and feeding of orphans and widows' i.e., using our limited resources to assist those requiring assistance. The physical structure is clearly interfering with this more useful directing of limited resources. A separation of church and building might not be an unfortunate happening.

Sylvia Wetherby

C.A.W.S. / State Stale-mated

A negotiated settlement between the State and CAWS seems to at a stalemate.

In the fall of 1986 the Massachusetts Dept of Public Sagety made a proposal to C.A.W.S. (Citizens Against Wrongful Searches) about limiting helicopter searches. C.A.W.S. had threatened suit for invasion of privacy for the unwarranted low searches in Sept. 1985. The group submitted a counter-proposal to what they said was not acceptable.

C.A.W.S. lawyer Ed Berlin recently informed members that M.D.P.S. chief counsel Stan Adelman had told him that the state was no longer open to a "deal."

The group is attempting to meet with the new commissioner before a decision about filing is made.

Susan DunLany

Paper Co. Faces Suit Over Millers River Pollution.

Four environmental organizations threatened in early February to sue the Town of Erving unless the town takes "prompt action" to stop the Erving Center sewage treatment plant from discharging toxic chemicals and other pollutants into the Millers River and the surrounding groundwater.

Through their attorney, the groups filed formal notice with the Erving Board of Selectmen that they will pursue a lawsuit under the federal Clean Water Act if the sewage treatment plant is not brought into compliance with state and federal environmental laws. More than 95% of the wastes treated by the plant are from the Erving Paper Mills Although the treatment plant is owned by the Town of Erving, it is operated by a subsidiary of the paper company.

Filing the notice were the Connecticut River Watershed Council, the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG), the Millers River Watershed Council, and the Massachusetts-Rhode Island Council of Trout Unlimited. The Boston-based Public Interest Litigation Project is representing the groups in this action.

"It is a matter of public record that toxic chemicals are discharged from the paper mill into the treatment plant and then into the Millers River, and we want this stopped," stated Henry Waidlich, chairman of the Millers River Watershed Council.

The notice letter to the town stated that the Erving Paper Mills has been discharging napthalene and other toxic, flammable, and corrosive substances into the treatment plant, and subsequently into the Millers River. Toxic chemicals are also entering the groundwater near the landfill used for disposal of the sludge from the plant, the groups claim.

The notice letter detailed six pages of alleged violations. According to the letter, the treatment plant:

- has violated its pollution limits on over 500 days since 1980;
- has failed to implement a pretreatment program for the chemicals from the paper mill;
- and has failed to comply with a 1983 enforcement order from the United States Environmental Protection Agency to correct sewage sludge problems.

The Millers River is a key spawning area for the Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program.

Mason Phelps

Bargain Truck Rejected

Voters at the February 26 special town meeting rejected a request from the highway commission for authorization to buy a giant 4-wheel-drive truck with wing plows, a grader, front snowplow, and sanding capability. By a vote of 21-5, the late night debaters who remained to the end of the meeting opposed the purchase of the used low-mileage truck from a private owner in Chicopee.

Road Boss Ron Grogan, who had initially favored the purchase, expressed reservations when the item came to the floor about the vehicle's large size on Wendell's smaller roads, the lack of a warranty, and the fact that it would only be useful during the winter months.

Joe Hartgens, head of the road commission, argued that the vehicle was an excellent value. While virtually new, this truck and several of its sisters were put into storage by the City of Holyoke pending a suit relating to brake problems. Though the company did thousands of dollars of brake work, according to Hartgens, the outcome of the lawsuit was that the city sold the trucks to a private individual, who stored them outdoors for two years and is now seeking to sell.

Voters also unanimously authorized the selectboard to petition the Franklin County Commissioners to discontinue five sections of county roads totalling almost seven miles:

--approximately 100 ft. of Morse Village Road, located approximately a mile east of the town Center,
--nearly a mile of Rockwood Hill Road between a point 500 ft. east of Coolyville Road to the Shutesbury line,
--approximately 1¼ mi. of an unnamed road starting at Jennison Road near Morse Pond northwest to the intersection with Morse Village Road,
--almost two miles of Old Farley Road from Posk Place Road in Farley northward to the Arch St. Bridge, and
--two miles of the same road southward from the Arch St. Bridge to its intersection with Wendell Depot Road.

In other actions, voters unanimously approved four "housekeeping" financial transactions. They approved an additional sum of $3,184 for local education; appropriated $615 from the Overlay Surplus account for Workers Compensation; transferred $1,000 from the Group Health Insurance account and appropriated $2,820 from the Overlay Surplus account to the Comprehensive Insurance account; and appropriated an additional sum of $2,000 from Free Cash to the Interest account.

Jonathan von Ranson

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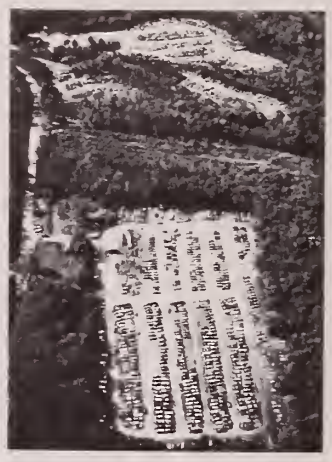

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GETTING TO BE AN ISLAND--With four bridges on Wendell's borders either closed or posted "Travel at Your Own Risk," the sensation is stronger than ever that this town is trying to start its own little country. It all started with the closing of the antique iron bridge across the Millers River in Farley several months ago, then the movement gathered considerable speed with the discovery of the two-inch crack in one of the main girders that carries Rt. 2 traffic across the Millers in the Depot. It got to be a real trend when the bridge over the railroad tracks in Millers Falls was shut down for repairs...and the little wooden bridge into the Lake Wyola section of Shutesbury got into the act with a fresh warning sign.

WENDELL TOWNHALL

ELECTIONS
Polls open 10am-8pm
Monday, May 4

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Thursday May 7

7:00 pm

Candidates

Selectman
3 years Michael Idoine
William M. Golding
2 years Blank
Assessors
2 years Doug Tanner
3 years Gail Bardsley
School Committee
3 years Linda Facey
Library Trustee
3 years Marion Herrick
3 years Sylvia Wetherby
Board of Health
3 years David Wilder
Planning Board
4 years Steve Gross *write in*
5 years Myron Becker
Cemetery Committee
3 years Minnie Bacigalupo
Town Clerk
3 years Anna Hartjens
Carolyn Manley
Treasurer
3 years Blank
Tax Collector
3 years Judy Wilder
Moderator
1 year Kathy Becker
Tree Warden
1 year Daniel Bacigalupo
Road Commission
3 year Rick Drohen
2 year Allen Walsh

★

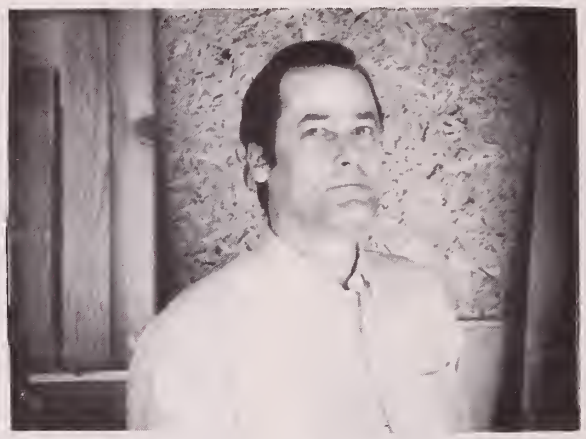
Michael Idoine
Locke Village Road

Selectboard

To the Wendell Post:

I am running for a second term on the Selectboard to see through several initiatives and projects begun during my first term. To be clear, I don't claim sole credit for any of these works, but I did lend what effort I could to see that they were carried out as cooperatively and effectively as possible. Most important to me were two projects that called upon improved communication and cooperation of most of our town departments.

The first of these was the establishment of a money management study directed toward improving the town's cash flow. This effort, sponsored by a grant awarded to the



Selectboard, reviewed our money handling system and identified the areas that need increased support. Support is a key word here. Because this was a joint effort, even the more sensitive recommendations which were products of this study were ratified by consensus. Many participants agreed that the process of working on this problem together was an improvement in itself.

A second study, soon to be underway, will examine our zoning enforcement and other roles involved in supporting our planning process. The Planning Board, Conservation Commission, as well as the Selectboard, have received a grant to support this study. It is hoped that clarifying our roles and duties in this area will strengthen the effort to make a long-range plan for development and conservation in Wendell.

Other jobs that would occupy my attention in a second term are the Farley Bridge restoration, the new fire station/town garage and plans for new town offices. While these efforts strain our administrative capacity, they are essential and are long overdue. We have received consistent and helpful support from our fledgling Highway Commission to make these highway-related tasks easier.

In general, I would like to continue my focus on interboard support and cooperation. Where we have made it work better it is a great satisfaction. We need to develop better our techniques for communication, so that those involved in town government feel their work is carried on as effectively as possible. To do otherwise would not do justice to the thoughtful good will I see most town officials investing in Wendell government.

The workload of town government is as great as ever, especially with the special projects we have underway. I urge Wendell citizens to consider increasing their support for this conscientious work beyond election day. I have promoted with others a spirit of access to our government process.

I hope Wendell voters will take advantage of this opportunity to help us all. You don't have to be an offical to help make the town work. You still have a choice to have a government of your own making in Wendell.

Michael Idoine
Locke Village Road

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Bill Golding ★

Selectboard

To the Wendell Post:

Hi, I'm Bill Golding. My wife, Betty, and I have lived in Wendell for almost 19 years. We orginally moved to Wendell to raise dogs and over the years have gradually switched to children and horses.

I've had considerable experience with management including course work, cost accounting with the food services at Amherst College, and most recently, 4½ years as acting Police Chief in Orange. I'm still with the Orange Police Department.

For the past several years I've been asked to run for Selectman but didn't feel that I had the time to do the job justice while serving as a Police Chief. Now that I do have the time I've decided to honor all those requests and run.

My concerns are primarily with the environment and the personal safety of our children. I can't promise any big changes but I can promise fairness.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and remember, your vote is your voice!

Bill Golding

★

Gail Bardsley Assessor

To the Wendell Post:

This is my second term as assessor for Wendell. I have learned a lot and I feel good knowing that I am contributing something to the town that I have lived in for almost fifteen years.

Gail Bardsley

★

Linda Facey School Committee

To the Wendell Post:

As you all know, my name is Linda Facey. I am running for reelection for school committee for a three-year term.

I have enjoyed my school committee position very much the last three years.

I have two sons still attending Swift River School and I enjoy being involved in the school system and doing various volunteer work and going on trips with the children.

In any situation, I like to know both sides, so I can be objective in decision-making. I also like to hear other people's ideas and opinions, so that I can understand and work for improvements that other town members feel are necessary for the best education for our children; and that is my main concern.

I feel a full, well-rounded curriculum is necessary for a good education and support teachers who really give of themselves.

Linda Facey

CANDIDATES

Steven Gross
Wendell Depot Road

Planning Board ★

Steve Gross is a ten-year resident of Wendell. He and his family have lived for five years in their new home off Depot Road, tucked in a retired pasture beyond the landmark old-style dairy barn and silo. Steve works with the Franklin County Mental Health Associates as a family therapist. He has also developed an interest and is working with community mediation.

Steve is running unopposed as a legal write-in candidate for a seat on the Planning Board. His observation that the entire valley is developing at an alarming rate moves him to want to have some say in how this town grows over the next years. Steve hopes to protect the personality of the town that attracted him here, the rural quality of the land and the independence with which people go about living their lives. Having served on the Planning Board for two months to fill the vacancy left by Tom Wetherby, Steve believes this is an exciting time to be on the board. "Right now the Planning Board is in its early stages, working at ground zero with the Town to form the structures which will protect it in the coming years."

K.B.

To cast your vote for a write-in candidate, write the name and address in the blank provided under the appropriate office on the ballot. Remember to mark an "x" beside that name to make your vote count.

★

Myron Becker PLANNING BOARD 3 yr term

I am running for re-election as a member of the Planning Board because it feels like we are just on the verge of creating a comprehensive and far reaching future growth policy and land use management plan for Wendell. I'm excited to be working with a competent and hard working group of people who share concern about protection the rural nature of our town.

Anna Hartjens Town Clerk ★

To the Wendell Post:

I am running for Town Clerk because I like being involved in town government. I have been doing the job for about 15 years and most of the time I have enjoyed it. The location of my office is very convenient to the townspeople because I am there at least 40 hours a week.

Anna Hartjens
Wendell Depot Road

Carolyn Manley ★ Town Clerk

To the Wendell Post:

I would like to share with you some of my reasons for running for the position of Town Clerk in Wendell. Over the past six months, I have been involved with the Finance Committee and have become aware of the need for town officials with the time and energy to serve our growing town. At the prompting of friends, I chose the position of Town Clerk because I believe that my experience is best suited for this position and because I was led to believe by the present Town Clerk that she was no longer interested in running for the position.

Besides being a member of the Finance Committee, I have a college degree and I am currently a bookkeepper on a part-time basis. In addition, I have had experience for many years as an Administrative Asst.

I have lived in Mass. for the past eight years and on Locks Hill Road in Wendell with my husband and three children for over a year.

I have met many people in Wendell and I am excited about the possibility of being elected Town Clerk. I firmly believe that I have the time, energy, and qualifications to serve the town effectively. I would therefore appreciate your vote on May 4.

★

Kathy Becker MODERATOR 1 yr term

To the Wendell Post:

I seek re- election to the office of Moderator because it is refreshing to be so close to the practices of freedom and the democratic idea. In a world where we often feel small and faceless, Town Meeting gives us the chance to make our voices heard where it counts. We are all safer when more and more of us understand our local policies and have come together to shape these goals through honest public debate.

RT. 2 TASK FORCE

During the interval between this issue of the Post and the previous one ther have been two Task Force meetings and two Public Information meetings on Route 2 Relocation.

First was the Task Force meeting on Jan. 28 at the Erving Town Hall. At this meeting the discussion of Measures of Effectiveness was completed and Massachusetts Audubon Society presented a study which was prepared by Phyllis L. Robinson. This study examines the economic impact of the South Bank Alignment (SBA) and concludes that the economic reasons for building the SBA are unjustified. Furthermore, this study concludes that in its destruction of the Wendell State Forest-Millers River complex the project would work at cross-purposes to the Northern Tier Plan which relies on the rural and undeveloped nature of the area to attract tourists and provide outdoor recreation.

Next came the two Public Meetings on February 10th and 11th at the Turners Falls High School, which discussed the SBA and the Low Profile Alignment (LPA) respectively. These meetings began with reviews of information already discussed at Task Force meetings and ended with statements by Wendell and Erving residents and other interested parties. Some of these statements favored the SBA, some the LPA and some opposed any new roadway at all.

The Final Task Force meeting for this phase of the Route 2 Relocation project was held on March 11th (postponed from February 25th) at the Erving Town Hall. At this meeting Task Force members were presented with copies of the draft Task Force Report, and were given two weeks for comments. The report contains all the information generated by the Task Force over the past six months. In addition the Traffic and Safety report, presented at our earlier meeting by Steve Kaiser, was discussed. The consultants disagreed with some of the details of this report, but agreed that a new highway could not be justified on the basis of traffic volume and safety requirements.

The Final Task Force report will be available in April and will be distributed to Task Force members. The report will then go to the Secretary Salvucci and Commissioner Tierney and any others who will be involved in deciding which alignment to pursue further. It is expected that this decision will be made "by summer."

The Governor will undoubtedly participate in making this decision and it is very important that those who want to save the very beautiful and ecologically significant Wendell State Forest-Millers River Comples write to Governor Dukakis in opposition to the South Bank Alignment. You may indicate your support for the Low Profile Alignment or No-build. However, a No-build decision at this time will only postpone a decision on relocation while if the Low Profile Alignment is selected it will satisfy many, many needs, offer a solution for many years to come and provide relief from a continuing threat to the Wendell State Forest.

Mason Phelps

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REPORT

From the PLANNING BOARD

As the annual town meeting approaches, the planning board would like to report on the status of several important issues.

At the series of special town meetings last fall, the Town approved three revisions to the Wendell Protection By Law, namely, to increase the minimum road frontage to 200 feet, the minimum lot size to three acres, and to provide a definition of a dwelling unit.

The artcle limiting one dwelling unit per lot was not passed. Since that time the board has discussed the best way to approach the dwelling unit issue and we have used this issue to help clarify the nature of all the work yet to be done.

In discussing the number of dwelling units per lot, we have argued two sides of the issue.

On the one hand is a concern that we are vulnerable to over-development and that we need to get some limit in place quickly. In contrast to this is the concern that this issue is too important to just slap something in place before doing a thorough examination.

Should we propose one dwelling unit per lot and allow for exceptions to be granted by special permit? If so, what should the criteria and process be for granting a special permit? Will townspeople have confidence in the fairness of such a process? Or should we propose that every lot have the opportunity for multiple dwelling units based on water availability and perkability? Should it be just one more dwelling unit, or half of a unit, as in an "in-law apartment"? Does it need to be attached to the main dwelling? Should the size of the lot be increased if there is more than one dwelling unit? These and all the questions regarding development must be addressed before we can proceed. At this time we have opted for a process that entails the participation of townspeople in deciding the answers.

The board is ready to engage in several courses of action. During the month of April, as part of a $3000 grant, we will be selecting a consulting firm to help the board become familiar with specific strategies, as zoning, special permits, variances, and performance review that can aid in the planning process. We will then convene neighborhood meetings to inform townspeople of available options, and more importantly, to determine their views regarding the issues that will determine the future of Wendell.

And big issues they are. Things as variable density permits, subdivision control, preservation of the town's rural character, and siting recreation areas and open spaces are but some. Each requires careful, informed consideration. Each requires an answer that is consistent with the vision of Wendell that we, as townspeople, share. The planning board is ready to come up with the required information and expertise.

We look forward to working with you in coming up with the answers.

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DAVID WILDER, SR. JUDITH WILDER

TOWN WARRANT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FRANKLIN, ss.

To the constable of the Town of Wendell in the County of Franklin.

Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on May 4, 1987 Monday **at** 10:00 **o'clock in the** A.M. **, then and there to act on the following articles:**

POLLS OPEN 10:00 A.M. AND SHALL CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.

Article 1: To choose all on one ballot, one Selectmen for 3 years, one Selectmen for 2 years, one Assessor for 3 years, one Assessor for 2 years, one School Committee member for 3 years, two Library Trustee for 3 years, one Board of Health for 3 years, one Planning board member for 5 years, one Planning Board member for 4 years, one Cemetery Commissioner for 3 years, one Road commissioner for 3 years, one Road Commissioner for 2 years, one Town Clerk for 3 years, one Treasurer for 3 years, one Tax Collector for 3 years, one Moderator for 1 year, one Tree Wardenfor 1 year, or take any action thereon.

Article 2: To hear the report of Town Officials, or take any action thereon.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 1987 in accordance with the provisions of Mass. General laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, & to issur a note or notes therefore payable within one year and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 17, of Mass. General Laws, or take any action thereon.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to fix the Salary and Compensation of all elected and appointed officials of the Town for the financial year beginning July 1, 1987, as provided in Section 108, Chapter 41, of Mass. General Laws, as amended and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate such sums of money as shall be deemed necessary to defray such salaries and expenses for that peroid, or take any action thereon.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to accept and expand the sum of $ or such other sum that may be made available from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Works for Fiscal 1988 Chapter 90 type construction, and to authorize the Road Commission to enter into contracts relative thereto, and to raise and appropriate or appropriate such sums as amy be needed, or take any action thereon.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend the sum of 1 250.00 specified as "Direct State Aid to Public Libraries", from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or take any action thereon.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate as principal and as Interest to pay the Highway Department Loader note, or take any action thereon.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate as Principal nad as Interest to pay the Highway DepartmentTruck note, or take any action thereon.

Article 9: To see if the Town of Wendell will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate 5 449.00 as the Town's share of the Shared Administrative Assistant Program, to accept any other funds as may be available to support said program during fiscal year 1988, and to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a cooperative agreement as prescribed by Chapter 40, Section 4A, for the program's administration and management , or take any action thereon.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District Committee to apply for and accept and be allowed to expend without further appropriation any funding which may be available to the Regional School District by accepting the provisions of Chapter one-hundred-eightyeight (188) Section 12, of the Acts of 1985 which hereby established Equal Educational Opportunity Grants for the purpose of increasing direct services to pupils in cities, towns, and regional school districts, educational collaboratives or independent vocational schools,or take any action thereon.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate the sum of 2 000.00 for the New Sander Account or take any action thereon.

Article 12: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate the sum of 350.00 to pay for the County Plumbing Inspector Program, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 13:

MOVE that the Town vote to discontinue in as much as they are Town ways or discontinued County ways, or discontinue maintainance in as much as they are private ways, the following roads or portions thereof.
All locations of roads are referenced to the 1977 United States Geological Survey maps, AMS 6569 III, Series 814, Millers Falls and Orange Quadrangles. The mapping coordinates given refer to the 1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid.

02 COOLEYVILLE ROAD: Commencing at the intersection with Rockwell Hill Road (aka Rockwood Hill Road) {7 14 090 E;47 09 760 N} thence southerly to the Town Line with Shutesbury {7 14 085 E; 47 08 940 N}, a distance of approximately 2 650 feet.

08 OLD FARLEY ROAD: Commencing at the intersection with Posk Place Road {7 10 500 E; 47 19 200 N}, thence northerly to the Arch Street Bridge {7 13 040 E: 47 19 250 N},a distance of approximately 9 620 feet.

09 A ROAD KNOWN AS OLD FARLEY ROAD: Commencing at the intersection with Wendell Depot Road {7 13 570 E; 47 16 520 N}, thence northerly to the Arch Street Bridge {7 13 040 E: 47 19 250 N},a distance of approximately 10 160 feet.

22 MORSE VILLAGE ROAD: Commencing 5 060 feet east of the intersection with Lock's Village and Wendell Depot Roads {7 15 200 E; 47 13 475 N}, thence easterly to the Town Line with New Salem {7 26 970 E; 43 13 190 N},a distance of approximately 7 100 feet.

23 ROCKWOOD HILL ROAD: Commencing 500 feet east of the intersection with the Cooleyville Road {7 14 260 E;47 09 810 N},thence southeasterly to the Town Line with Shutesbury {7 15 330 E; 47 08 800 N},a distance of approximately 5 060 feet.

24 UNNAMED ROAD: Commencing at the intersection with Jennison Road at Morse Pond {7 16 650 E; 47 11 675 N}, thence northwesterly to the intersection with Morse Village Road {7 15 660 E; 47 13 425 N},a distance of approximately 6 600 feet.

The Story Lady herself, Phyllis Lawrence, spins a world of fantasy and inspires the children to relate their own stories.

Jesse's Story

Once upon a time there was a tiger. He lived in a zoo. And then a crocodile came along, and then the crocodile tried to bite the tiger but he bit the ground. And then the tiger tried to bite the crocodile but the crocodile was killed.

And then the crocodile woke up one day and the tiger was gone. And then a little dog came along. And then a person came along and the person picked up the crocodile and the tiger and the dog.

Jesse Edward Davis
(Age 4, Swift River Preschool, as told to the Story Lady)

Haunted House

Once upon a time, the ghost swung to the window. And the witch fell out the window. And the goblins ran out the door. And the vampires ran out the window. And the skeletons called the fire department and that's the end!

Liam Walsh, age 4

(As told to the story Lady of Swift River Preschool)

Child Care At Town Meeting

For all the people who would love to go to town meeting but are unable to find a babysitter, this year hopefully childcare will be available. Tentative arrangements have been made to use the Center School as a play area, and the basement of the library as a sleeping space.

To get this effort off the ground, we do need cooperation. Parents wanting childcare will need to make reservations for their children in advance so that we will be able to have enough childcare workers and activities. Please call to reserve by April 30. There will be a small fee to pay the workers.

We will also need people to do childcare. Perhaps people from New Salem might consider doing childcare for the Wendell town meeting in exchange for childcare provided by Wendell residents at the New Salem meeting. Anyone interested in doing childcare for either could call and let us know. Teenagers and nonvoting adults, we need you!

Contact person for reservations for children and for helping out is Zenya Wild at 544-3834. More details will be available when you call.

Open Space Committee To Survey Town

Every voter will have received in the mail a Survey Questionnaire by the time this Wendell Post is out. The information is needed by the committee preparing an OPEN-SPACE and RECREATION PLAN for the Town of Wendell. We ask folks to return the questionnaire by Monday, April 27th, 1987, so we can get to work tabulating the results. We encourage people to enclose any comments pertinent to the issues raised.

The committee began work in Jan. 1986 at the request of the Select Board. The data assembled will provide the most complete survey of the Town to enable voters and officials to plan with as clear an idea as we can develope of our goals for the future. Public hearings will be held to help us establish goals and priorities.

A first draft will be out in mid-August. When it is completed and accepted by the Commonwealth, the Town becomes eligible for certain grants-in-aid from both the State and Federal Government to specifically further those goals which qualify for funding. A particular feature will be maps which will give us the clearest possible picture of our Town as a place of present and future habitation.

CALLING ALL 'TEEN-AGERS - The Committee wishes to include the opinions and preferences of teenagers. We have no mailing list of them, so we will provide extra copies at the Country Store, the Center Post Office and the Wendell Depot Store. All interested 'teen-agers are encouraged to make their views known. Today's 'teen-agers at age eighteen become eligible voters of tomorrow. Unless we hear from you, we cannot meet your needs or plan for the future you want.

Charles Thompson Smith

In Praise of Dandelions

"She likes to see dandelions buttoning
April lawns,
But thinks that the greens, cooked, are
their real beauty.
Tasting of spring, and strange, dark,
Merlin-lore,
and ringing in minor chords."

from New England Poet
by Lee Avery Reed

DANDELIONS

Winter's mantle has lifted off garden, field, and woods. Now, green grows the life of Spring! Clover, dandelions, wild mustard, yellowdock and plantain are up and reaching for the sun; and we are reaching down for them for our spring salads. The deep green look and taste of each of these plants calls out to us of its store of nutrients. I cannot help but nibble a little of this and that when outside, even if it's just on my way to hang out laundry.

Dandelion greens, also known as wild endive, are at their most delicious in early spring before they develop flower buds, at which point the leaves become bitter. Traditionally, in Europe and America, fresh dandelion greens were a favorite spring tonic. Spring tonics were and are still used for their general nourishing effects on the whole body, strenghening the vitality of the person. Dandelion also has a marked effect on the liver, so it's a nice berb to use after a winter of heavy eating which can tax this organ. And a bit of reenergizing after the slower moving season of winter, is always welcome.

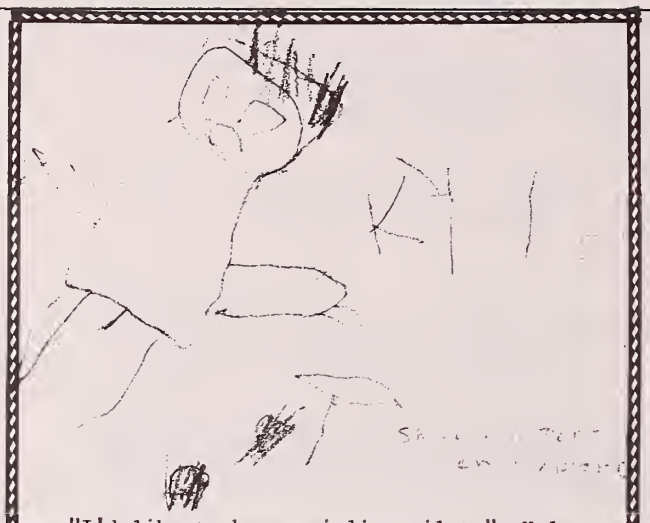
Dandelion's botanical name, Taraxacum officianale, means " the official remedy for disorders." This famous weed has for centuries represented good health and renewed vigor. One-half cup of greens contains large amounts of calcium and Vitamin A (5X the M.D.R., so eat smaller amounts, as too much Vit. A can be toxic) and substantial amounts of Vitamin B, Vit. C (½ M.D.R.), sodium, potassium, and trace elements. Other nutritive minerals are stored in the plant's taproot which can be more easily pulled in wet weather, before the plant blooms. The root can be sliced thin in salads, roasted and brewed as a coffee substitute, infused in water as a tea, or put up in tincture form to extract the healing properties of the root. The root's nutrients are easily assimilable and help build the blood. It has been used for anemia, liver, pancreas, and spleen problems, exzema, and other skin diseases.

Later in the season the center crown and buds can be steamed as a vegetable and even the blossoms can be batter-dipped and fried for a surprising taste treat. Then there is dandelion wine, flower chains to make and wear and "seed fairies" to blow and wish upon.

A very useful "weed" indeed!

In thoughts of spring wonders,

Kate Gilday



"I'd like to be an airline pilot." Kyle, Swiftriver Preschool.

RETREAT FROM BACKWOODS CABIN

In the early 1970's, Ron Baker lived with his wife, Merry, in a tiny cabin on Bear Mountain. A couple in their late 20's, they parked their car at the bottom near the Millers River--or all the way in Erving during the winter--and walked up to the one-room shack the size of a large van. Ron used to work as night watchman at local industries and Merry, if memory serves, was in medicine.

Ron wrote for a tiny periodical called the Backwoods Journal published by another reclusive soul in upper New York. I figured in one of his stories in kind of a walk-on part. It was about a stray female dog that in actual fact roamed the mountain and seemed to need adoption. I was the adoption agent, you could say.

About this time the stray met a truly wild dog who taught her the ways of pure independence from hearth and dog dish. Things developed, and there is a final scene, familiar in the annals of befriended or semi-tamed wild animals, in which the dog pays a last "thank-you" visit. She approaches Ron and the cabin, her newfound mentor behind her peeking over a rise. For a moment she responds to Ron's call, torn between her old life and her new, gratitude and romance, "civilization" (such as it is in a deep-woods shack with two virtual hermits) and nature. She hesitates...and trots off to the call of the wild.

Ron understood how stultifying too much human contact could be. Particularly when it came to creativity. He wrote this story and others in a writer's retreat, away from the distraction of, well, Merry: an even tinier shack in an even remoter location on the mountain. The giant hemlocks on the path to his study set Ron into the creative frame of mind, they centered him by their rooted presence and gracious posture.

Since that time, Ron and Merry have moved away, Ron took over publication of Backwoods Journal, ran it for a few years, then let it cease when no other publisher could be found. He turned to other projects, one an investigation of cruelty to animals in lab situations. Working undercover as night watchman at an unnamed New York State pharmaceutical laboratory, he narrowly escaped apprehension as an animal-rights "spy," and eventually quit to write a magazine length article on his experience and discoveries, "Behind Locked Doors: Inside an Animal Research Lab."

Where Ron and Merry moved to was upstate New York, partly to get away from what they perceived as growing congestion near them (each summer as we camped on our land, I imagined we contributed to the claustrophobia). Here's what he wrote last summer from Paradox, N.Y.:

"Merry and I are still here at our Adirondack cabin. It's pretty nice except for hunting seasons, which are scandalously long. Bear hunting starts in mid-September and continues through November. Deer season starts in mid-October and continues through November. You can get kind of paranoid up here before it's all over. That is what helped prompt me to write my book (Editor's note: The American Hunting Myth, Vantage Press Inc., 516 W. 34th St., NY, NY 10001, $10.95 plus $1.25 postage & handling).

"By the way, it's continuing to sell slowly. It was subsidy-published, as it is just about impossible for a new author to get published any other way even if he or she writes a modern classic. It just about cleaned me out financially. But I felt that I had something important that had to be said and publicized. The game management philosophy is based upon The Big Lie, and I can't stand dishonesty.

"My book has had 21 reviews/endorsements, all but three of which were very favorable. It is being carried by a local store in Schroon Lake. The owner of the local bakery won't patronize the store on account of it. Guess I'm making an impact! I still have a ways to go to sell the 3,000-plus copies necessary to break even on expenses..."

That was Ron's letter. Perhaps the Wendell library will purchase a copy of the book, which details the ways "hunter-dominated state and federal wildlife agencies are systematically destroying America's wildlife and natural lands and what you can do...to insure a responsible stewardship over America's wildlife."

Ron asks the status of the Arch St. Bridge, the underground pipeline and the Route 2 project, all erstwhile contributors to his Wendell claustrophobia.

What he doesn't know is that the hemlocks on the way to the writer's shack--one of the largest and most beautiful stands on Bear Mountain--are under threat of logging. They may have been saved, but what Ron calls paranoia--given his value clash with the dominant culture--sometimes seems a restrained reaction.

Jonathan von Ranson

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Letter from Guatemala

Dear family and friends,

I'm writing this collective letter to explain to h'all that I am currently working with a Peace Brigades International (PBI) team in Guatemala City. Our principal work here consists of escorting (day and night) Guatemalan citizens who are potentially threatened by violence. Under the present political circumstances, international escorts greatly reduce the risk that these people face day to day. PBI is a worldwide organization committed to non-violence and seeks to promote peaceful solutions of political conflicts using a variety of active and passive strategies. When ex-president General Oscar Mejia Victores announced the imminent "democratic" opening here in 1983, PBI decided to send a team to monitor the situation and to create an international presence at this critical time.

Tonight I am escorting the precocious four year old daughter of Nineth Montenegro Garcia. One might expect that four year olds could be exempt from the threat of kidnapping and murder but I'm sad to tell you that this is not true. Nineth is the outspoken and popular leader of GAM (Mutual Support Group) organized by families of disappeared persons in 1984. GAM dedicates its efforts to protesting the disappearances and pressuring the government to clarify the cases and punish those responsible. GAM is the only such "human rights" group operating within Guatemala today. Several others in the last decade were forced by violent reprisals to cease their efforts and/or flee the country. For this, GAM has been the focus of enormous attention and controversy within the country and worldwide. To many here, Nineth is a national hero; to others a dangerous radical.

After months of fuitless, low-key diplomacy in 1984, GAM shocked the country by publicly accusing the army and secret police of being responsible for thousands of murders and disappearances. In a series of paid newspaper ads and public statements, they claimed that a wealth of irrefutable evidence compiled by their group, including witnesses' testimonies, photos, and material evidence, proved the army's culpability.

Then head of state Mejia Victores responded by accusing GAM of being influenced by "foreign subversion" and of trying to mount a slanderous campaign to discredit the government. According to Victores, the violence in Guatemala is a "folkloric problem that began with Cain and Abel... The problem is that nobody is content with anybody, and in Guatemala, where there are 7 million people, it is a normal problem." The Minister of Government Adolfo Lopez Sandoval suggested that those "allegedly disappeared" had left Guatemala to work in the United States or had gone underground amd joined the guerillas.

GAM refused to accept these explanations and intensified their protests including a peaceful occupation of the Constituent Assembly. In early 1985 they began holding weekly rallies near the National Palace stopping traffic and banging pots and pans to draw attention to their demands.

At this point the leadership and many of the members of GAM began receiving death threats and annonymous warnings to cease their public spectacles. Despite the persistent threats, GAM continued its public protests attracting many new members. However, on March 30, 1985 Hector Gomez, one of the vociferous leaders of GAM, was kidnapped and killed. According to his niece he had been tortured with a blowtorch, brutally beaten and his tongue was cut out. Four days later Rosario Godoy de Cuevas, another principal leader, was also kidnapped and murdered along with her brother and her three-year-old son. According to mourners who viewed the corpses, the child's fingernails had been torn out. This was a critical moment for GAM. Under continuing threats, several leaders chose to flee the coutry. However, under the determined leadership of Ms. Garcia (her own husband disappeared in Feb. 84) the group has persisted to the present and now numbers well over 1000 members (most of them indigenous women). Tremendous international recognition of GAM's struggle including a prestigious human rights award (Carter-Mendil) as well as sympathetic foreign escorts have given the group somewhat greater safety although death threats have not stopped.

Sitting here on escort duty, I flip through the pages and pages of news clippings snd photos of the disappeared. At first it is easy, indeed inevitable that one distance oneself from the reality of so much raw violence. After tens and tens of thousands of deaths, the numbers cease to have any meaning. Almost by necessity one adopts an attitude of detachment in order to proceed with the routine of life (be it what it may for a PBI volunteer).

But, for me, every once in a while the facade slips a little. When I listen to the personal testimonies of the families of the disappeared... When I watch the shadowed faces of the indigenous women at a GAM meeting... Sometimes just when riding through the crowded slums of Guatemala City watching the hordes of strangers, children, street vendors and beggars... Then, for a brief instant I sense the presence of those 40,000 missing Guatemalans. I begin to realize that each one of them was a real person, a living, breathing human being, who was wrenched without warning from their home and family and whose fate remanins a cruel mystery now and probably forever. They just disappeared!

To make some intellectual sense of the contemporary situation in Guatemala it is essential to understand the historical precedents of this country beginning with the rape of the Mayan cultures by Cortez's lieutenant Pedro de Alvarado on 1528. Enduring patterns of land ownership, enforced labor, race relations and economic domination were established which are still evident today. Also of ultimate significance is the 1954 CIA sponsored coup which squashed Guatemla's first tentative experiment with popular democracy and social reform. Under subsequent military regimes, the urgent problems of landlessness, unemployment, illiteracy, poverty and hunger have all grown more acute. More complete information on these subjects can be found in the following books: Bitter Fruit by Kinzer and Schlesinger, Guatemala in Rebellion edited by Fried, Gettleman, Levenson and Peckenham, The Mutual Support Group an Americas Watch Report, 1985.

Working as part of this project has been both difficult and inspiring. Notwithstanding the December, 1985 election of well-intentioned Vinicio Cerezo, political murders and disappearances continue to occur. Due to the small size and conditional status of the BI team we can really only provide security for a small, select handful of people. Twice president Cerezo has reneged on his campaign promise to lanch an independent investigation of the disappearances. His message has been to "forget the past" and to move fprward toward a better future. But, by his own admission Cerezo holds only 30% of the power in his government. It is easy to grow.disillusioned...

Albeit small, the PBI presence sould not have even existed here five years ago. Today, I am part of a unique and committed team of volunteers and peacemakers from all over the world. We live cooperatively in a comfortable house in Guatemala City sharing both the political struggle and the mundane day to day stuff. Spanish is the language we all have in common though each of us adds our own unique flavor the Castillano. I've been sewing plenty of Doggie Sacs while on escort duty. I also practice my stalls every day!

Besides escorting threatened Guatemalans, PBI also maintains relationships with a spectrum of different citizens and officials. We provide a safe meeting place for GAM and other groups that request it. We provide protection and advice to a handful of unassociated individuals in the country. We offer ourselves as observers and mediators in local or regional conflicts that arise. PBI also publishes a monthly newsletter keeping folks on the outside somewhat up to date. We also communicate regularly with the base organization in Toronto who use our work to encourage international scrutiny of and solidarity with Guatemala.

Two weeks ago the team hosted 1980 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Adolfo Perez Esquivel on his brief visit here. A brilliant and compassionate Argentine, Esquivel spoke out in public against self-serving military regimes that perpetrate terror and cultural genocide. It raised the hair on my neck to hear him passionately denounce political repression in a way that few Guatemalans could dare to.

Last week I travelled to the Atlantic coast with three other PBI volunteers. We were requested to serve as observers of a tense, potentially violent confrontation between a group of once-a-week street market (flea market) vendors and the city government which was determined to move them from their traditional location. It was a complicated conflict with many variables and hidden motives but in the end, the two parties were able to negotiate what seems to be a workable solution. As explicitly non-partisan observers, we talked at length with both sides, encouraged them to set up a meeting and maintained a high profile presence on market day. In the end, it was the Guatemalans themselves who solved their crisis, just as they must ultimately with the greater national crisis.

Please forgive me for using this impersonal method to communicate with you. (I never liked this kind of letter.) Under the circumstances however, this was the prefered option. I miss all my family and friends trmendously as I feel the passage of months away from home..I miss Wendell, Massachusetts full moon coffee houses and I even miss winter a little. I hope that March has found each of you snug and active in your burrows (tipis?) and look forward to the changes to come. It's hard to believe that soon it will be time to till the earth again...

Peace,

Daniel Dog

P.S. The address of Peace Brigades International is 175 Carlton St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5A 2K3

(Editor's note: Daniel Botkin of Wendell Depot Rd. taught at New Salem Academy)

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ST. PAT'S DAY SING--Lester Scafidi, children librarian at Wheeler Memorial Library, with friends at New Salem Public Library following program of songs and stories in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Program was funded by the New Salem Arts Lottery Council and the Friends of the Library provided green fruit juice and cookies.

Library Notes

Books bring the whole world to one's door. On a gloomy day they can bring sunshine into one's heart. With the magnificent color in today's books one can virtually travel the world, explore the unlimited nysteries of science, make close acquaintance with the beauty and the grandeur of nature. It is the greatest bargain the world has ever known. It offers all this and more and does not cost one cent.

And the quality of our little library has soared. It is one of the best.

I find real joy in doing all I can in my limited way toward making a finer and still finer library in the little town that is dear to my heart. I love people and I love books and I enjoy doing my little bit toward bringing them together.

Marion Herrick

WASTE DISPOSAL PLANNING

In order to save rental money, Wendell will keep the open top dumpster only through April and May this year. The open top accepts large items such as couches, televisions and mattresses, which cannot be compacted, and which would provide homes for rats if put in the landfill.

The Holyoke Energy Recovery Company, HERCO, began in 1979 when J.F. Partyka and Sons determined that their landfill had only ten remaining years. They sent engineers around the country and to Europe, studying composting, recycling, and burning facilities, and concluded that for them, the best alternative was a waste to energy recovery plant. At that time, the State Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) and the Bureau of Solid Waste Disposal (BSWD) told them that their only choice was a waste to energy recovery plant, and that no new landfills would be approved unless connected to such a facility.

In theory, there are several benefits of a plant such as the proposed HERCO plant; first, the energy saved by replacing some fossil fuel with trash; second, the extended life of landfills filled with the ash from the burning facility, reduced by roughly 70% from the volume of raw trash. The ash will be of lower pH than raw trash, and therefore less available to be leached into the groundwater. The exhaust gases are clean because of high combustion temperatures, and particulates are filtered and removed by electrostatic precipitators (ESP's). According to John Krzeminski, of J.F. Partyka and Sons, the proposed plant may actually reduce air pollution by reducing dependence on the present electric plant which burns soft coal, and it would add less dioxins than present automobile use. The Partyka family, including John Krzemenski live in Holyoke and are raising their children there.

In their planning, Partyka and Sons neglected to include public hearings, and although the Holyoke Board of Health approved of their plan, and a local referendum in Holyoke approved of the plan in 1980, citizens groups arose opposing the plant, most notably the Committee for a Quality Environment, CQE, and Nueva Esperanza.

A study by Paul Connett of St. Lawrence University predicted 300 new cases of cancer annually, and he gave frightening presentations of the threat from dioxins.

Jesse Ortiz, a professor of Public Health at the University of Massachusetts, working with Nueva Esperanza approached Partyka and Sons with his objections to the plant. Partyka responded by modifying the plans, and after several exchanges, Ortiz was satisfied. Nueva Esperanza and CQE were not.

Ortiz also found that Connetts figures for pollutants were high by a factor of 1,000.

The ideal situation can be far from the real situation. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of potential pollutants, and the HERCO exhaust would interact with pollutants from other sources. Incomplete and inefficient burning can follow from mechanical failure, excessively wet fuel, and cold start and shutdown. Dioxins result from most burning, and when chlorinated plastics are burned, the dioxins formed are chlorinated, very stable and incredibly toxic.

In November of 1986 the State DEQE denied the siteing request of HERCO with a three page letter giving no reasons. Partyka is appealing that decision now in Massachusetts Superior Court, but even if he wins, the DEQE may still deny him a permit. Without HERCO, Wendell has no long term plan for our trash. Our trucker, Richard Gagnon, is investigating putting the trash in containers and shipping it by rail to a large landfill near Buffalo, New York.

For Wendell, recycling is a first step. John Krzeminski estimated that recycling of newspaper, glass and cardboard would reduce our trash volume by 10% to 30%, depending on participation. Richard Gagnon concurs, figuring that we can save five to six compactor loads a year, about $2500 at the present tipping fee.

Presently we are doing well to have someone haul recycled material away for nothing, but as more recycling occurs regionally, markets will change, businesses will be able to depend on a steady supply of recycled material and may start paying. Other materials might become worth recycling. It all was good once.

Keep your eyes open for informative recycling signs at the dump. Each household will become more and more responsible for separation of glass, newspapers, magazines, hazardous waste, and for composting landfill materials like leaves and brush. While this is voluntary now, be one step ahead and organize your trash now. Thank you.

Joshua Heinemann
Wendell Recycling Committee

FRIENDS OF QUABBIN, INC.

Elizabeth Howe Lincoln

Quabbin Watercolors, Etchings & Lithographs

The Gallery at the Quabbin Visitor Information Center has come alive with local images painted by one of our areas most popular artists, Elizabeth Howe Lincoln. Mrs. Lincoln lives in Ware where she taught studeo art and art history in the school system for 15 years. Her works grace private collections throughout the USA and in Canada, Mexico, and Scotland. She has had numerous one-woman shows and her paintings are regularly displayed in many local places of business.

These works will be on display through April and May.

Mrs. Lincoln created many of the illustrations for her father's book "Quabbin-The Lost Valley". This out-of-print collector's item remains one of the most authoritative historical records of Quabbin's lost communities. A copy can be viewed at the Visitor Center.

The Quabbin Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM and from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on weekends. It is located in the MDC Administration Building at Winsor Dam off Route 9 in Belchertown.

For more information contact Terry Campbell; 485 Ware Road; Belchertown, MA 01007; 413-323-7221.

I Read To You

I read to you
a message of light, dear friend,
of sparkling rainbowed rivers flowing bright
of darkness dispelling doom and
bringing flowers to bloom
and of fragrances yet to be born
and scents yet to be worn.

Let not the solemnity of your mourning
give you anything but fair warning
to wintered seeds in darkened earth.
Rivers overflowing...
my love is growing.

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New Salem Meetinghouse

The State's Executive Office Of Administration and Finance has promised a $150,000 matching grant for restoring New Salem's 1794 Meetinghouse and equipping it for use as a civic and cultural center. This restoration project is contingent upon approval by the residents of the Town of New Salem. The Meetinghouse is listed in the State Register of Historic Places and is located on the New Salem Town Common. Frank T. Keefe, Sec. of Adminstration and Finance, announced the grant in a letter to the 1794 Meetinghouse Preservation Committee. According to Erin Williams, spokesperson for the Committee, the Sec. said in his letter that he had been particularly impressed by the strong community support for the project evidenced by the more than $6,000 raised by the Preservation Committee from within the small community.

The State's grant is a matching grant and also requires that the Meetinghouse property be owned by the Town, under the management of a Cultural Center Commission. To receive the grant, a 30% share of the total cost (about $65,000) must be raised by the Cultural Center Comm. Ms. Williams says that fund-raising will start almost immediately, and that individual contributions, corporate support, and private foundation grants will be sought. The present owners of the building, The Congregational Society of New Salem, will be asked to vote on transferring the Meetinghouse to Town ownership. Williams says that a Special Town Meeting will be requested to establish the Cultural Center Comm. and to transact other necessary business in connection with the grant.

Restoration and development of the Meetinghouse as a civic and cultural center will take about two years. This restoration project will return the Meetinghouse to its original simple elegance and will provide portable stage lighting and acoustical treatments. The Meetinghouse will seat up to 220 people and will be accessible to the handicapped. When the work is completed, the Meetinghouse will be used as a center for live theater, concerts, seminars, lectures, and workshops of various kinds. The Meetinghouse will also be made available for weddings, graduations and other similar functions for which it has traditionally served the community.

Members of the 1794 Meetinghouse Preservation Committee include: Bradley Fisher, Althea Gilmore, Jack Jewett, Marion vonMering, and Erin Williams.

Althea Gilmore

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Voters Move Preschool

The Swift River Preschool is a wonderfully busy and happy place in the center of Wendell. On Feb. 1987, the people of Wendell came together at a special town meeting and voted to move the preschool to Swift River Elementary School. New Salem had already approved the move..

It was an emotional meeting. Many townspeople at the meeting had gone to this school in the center of town. Their children and grandchildren had also been schooled there.

It is an idyllic, but not ideal setting. One major drawback is traffic going by so fast and so close to the playground. And, I believe, the major reason for the decision (decided, gulp, by one vote) was finances. The money is available for the addition now. Both New Salem and Wendell are growing rapidly. This year's enrollment at preschool is 25 children. The legal limit in the building is 33. The furnace is old. The celing sags. And the fact is, the grant money may not be there five years down the road. So we have decided to move to the "big school."

The preschoolers will have a separate entrance and separate playground. It won't be as special as having their own school, but then, maybe it will make the transition to kindergarten an easier one. My heart says stay, but my logic says make the move while funding is possible.

One thing I do know for sure is that the Swift River Preschool is a place for children to learn to grow. Janet Ducharme, Marcelle Feltman and Phyllis Lawrence are three loving teachers working with our children four mornings a week. They are teaching the young children of Wendell and New Salem to communicate with a special emphasis on oral communication. One extraordinary way this is done is through the Story Lady. Phyllis Lawrence (shh!! don't tell) dresses in a lovely feathered cap and velvet cape accompanied by a quill pen and listens and writes down what the children tell as their own stories. Some are real, some imagined. The children feel important, listened to, and SPECIAL.

Each month a calendar and note comes home filled with information for parents and activities for the children. Last month the Preschool took a trip to Linda Facey's Sugarbush Farm. They also collected sap from a maple tree in the preschool's yard, making their very own maple syrup.

Indeed, going to a small school in the center of a rural town is special. But even more special is the staff that runs the program and this parent wants to say Thank You to Janet, Marcelle and Phyllis for being wonderful, caring, and loving teachers for all of the children of Swift River Preschool.

Mez Davis

Early Childhood Parent Advisory Council Formed

In the fall of 1986, the Early Childhood Parent Advisory Council was formed. Its members include: Leonard Strauss, Janet Ducharme, Bette Richard, Marcelle Feltman, Mary Ellen Ziemba Davis and Kathy Woodward.

The council discusses such matters as equipment purchases for the preschool through grants, possible programs, needs of the preschoolers and surveys to help make decisions important to the preschool program. Our most recent meeting was held at the preschool on April 6, 1987 where we discussed and advised materials concerning the most current preschool survey and applying for an upcoming grant. We are a small group of parents and teachers who are evaluating and always hoping to improve our children's preschool program.

Mez Davis

SWIFT RIVER RIDERS 4-H Club, clockwise from lower left: Greg Pauli, Ami Golding, Anna Wetherby, Leaders Barbara Pauli and Betty Golding, Gretchen Wetherby, Jenny Pauli and Sarah Golding.

The Swift River Riders

The Swift River Riders, a local 4-H club, was recently awarded a blue ribbon for their display at the New Salem Library. Jim Scace, the County Extension Agent who judged the exhbit, stated that it was one of the finest he'd ever seen!

The exhibit, titled "Horses, More Than Pretty Faces", illustrated how horses are used for agriculture, transportation, entertainment, recreation, law enforcement, and therapeutic riding. The members spent many hours on planning as well as the construction of props and doll costumes. Model horses, dolls, and other items were used to set up the display. Each of the six scenes also offered a fact card, for example: Did YOU know that former Secretary of State, Jim Bradley, is one of the hundreds of people regaining motor control through riding?

The Swift River Riders was formed just over a year ago and has been very active. Last spring the youngsters participated in a town clean-up ride, collecting trash on horseback. Their mounted drill team performed in the rain at Wendell Old Home Days and in the sunshine for the New Salem Old Home Days. Last fall they enjoyed a campout and gymkhana (playing games on horseback). Field trips, visual presentations, record keeping, barn inspections, and safe riding are all a part of this 4-H club.

Present members include: Dina Fisher, Wendell; Amy and Sarah Golding, Wendell; Leanna Mattson, New Salem; Greg and Jenny Pauli, New Salem; Renee and Rhonda Reipold, Wendell; Beth and Elise Stockwell, Orange; and Anna and Gretchen Wetherby, Wendell. Teen leader is Beth Chase, Wendell. Activity leader is Colleen Connors, Amherst, who also works in the third grade at Swift River School. Organizational/Project leaders are Betty Golding, Wendell and Barbara Pauli, New Salem.

The exhibit will be on display at Taylor's Tavern in Greenfield in the near future. The club also plans to enter it in the Franklin County Fair, and, possible, at Eastern States.

Betty Golding

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POSTING PLACE

WENDELL

PLANNING BOARD NOTICE

Starting May 18, the Wendell Planning Board will meet on the first and third TUESDAY (a change from Monday) of every month, at 7:30 in the Town Hall.

Our new zoning bylaws, minimum lot size three acres, minimum frontage 200 feet, was approved by the Attorney General.

POLITICAL NOTICE

The Wendell Town Democratic Committee invites all Democrats, Independents and disgusted Republicans to a potluck supper on the Common on May 15 from 5-7pm (Wendell Church in case of rain).

Our delegates to the State Convention; Kathy Becker, Parker Cleveland, Dave Walsh and Kathy Nolan are anxious to discuss any concerns people may want brought to the Convention floor in June. Call Dave Walsh at 544-7409 with any questions.

POLICE LOG

2- 5-87 B&E and vandalism at Fiske residence on Depot Rd.
2-12-87 B&E at Stewarts on West St.
2-22-87 Resident on Lockes Village Rd. reported shooting two dogs that were harrassing his livestock.
3- 5-87 Judy Shaw reported her house on Cooleyville Rd. broken into.
3-12-87 Person reported hitting dog in front of Maple Valley School. Dog died.
3-14-87 Family disturbance.
3-28-87 Resident on Lockes Village Rd. reported cars speeding up and down by Country Store.

FIRE LOG

2-9-87 Chimney fire at Michael Wing's-Wickett Pond Rd.
2-10-87 Wendell Depot Rd., Rick Drohen-structure fire in his cabin.
3-31-87 Stone Rd. Power line down-arcing.
3-31-87 Two cellar pumps-Robert Bowers and Everett Ricketts residences.
4-5-87 Mary MacBride-flooded cellar, pumped cellar.

LAND TRANSFERS

8-21-86 Louise C. Schouler to Mason and Ina Phelps 18 acres on Old Farley Rd.
10- 1-86 Danette Reynolds-Gallaghar to Dennis Harris house and building lot on Wickett Pond Rd.
10- 1-86 Rural Housing Improvement, Inc. to James and Nancy Graton 2 acres on Montague Rd.
10- 1-86 Rural Housing Improvement, Inc. to William and Sharon Clough 2 acres on Montague Rd.

Spring by Dennis

Spring grass growing
while grass green buds
are budding, touched
by the sun, turned into green leaves

GENERAL

SUMMER FUN!!!!!

There is a summer program being planned for children in and around Wendell. This recreational program will include arts and crafts, nature study and co-operative games.

Place and times to be announced!! Anyone interested in participating in this program should call: Mez Davis 544-6252
NEEDED: One other teacher and junior counselors.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Recently a group of Wendell and New Salem residents have been gathering to explore options for the education of our 7th and 8th graders. On March 25 a meeting was held at the Wendell Town Hall with school superintendents, Carl Knowlton and Leonard Lubinsky, in order to gather information and share ideas. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 at 7:30 pm at Swift River School. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. For more information, call Katie Bloomfield at 544-7849.

SUMMER CAMP/RUGGLES POND

Yes, this summer there will be a camp for preschoolers and elementary aged children to be held at Ruggles Pond, under the directorship of Claire Green and assisted by Natalie Nalepinski. It will be an exciting, fun, adventure-filled camp. There will be programs in the following areas; but not limited to: nature study, painting, drawing and writing, herb identification, swimming, new games, story telling, creative movement and singing. Call me at home (after 7pm preferably) for further information and questions or registration.
544-7421 Dates: June 22-26 for preschoolers aged 4, 5&6
June 29-July 3 for children aged 7, 8,9
July 6-10 for children aged 10, 11,12
Cost: $50.00/session/child
Time: 9:00am-2:00pm (pack own picnic lunch)
Place: Ruggles Pond pavillion by large meadow.

It is important to register by May 31st or before. Space is limited in each session.

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NEW SALEM

NOTICE

As of April 1, 1987, Merle Thompson will be the dog officer for the Town of New Salem. Diane Thompson will be assisting Telephone: 617-544-7031.

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of New Salem, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 140, Section 167 of the Massachusetts General Laws, hereby notifies all persons of the Dog Restraining Order, which has been in effect and shall be enforced. This order is deemed necessary to prevent dogs from harassing persons, chasing, harrassing, attacking, or killing deer.

The Dog Officer of New Salem has been authorized to enforce this order by fining owners who do not obey the restraining order. There will be a fine of $10.00 for any dog picked up by the Dog Officer, and the fine will be paid by the owner. In addition, the Dog Officer shall receive a fee of $3.00 for daily care for any dog in custody. No dog will be kept for more than ten days. At the end of the ten day custody and care period, the dog will be given away for adoption or destroyed humanely.

Dogs running at large may be destroyed if deemed necessary for public safety.

Town of New Salem
Board of Selectmen
Marion von Mering, Chairman
Dorothy A. Johnson

NOTICE

Pursuant to the unanimous vote of residents attending a special town meeting on October 14, 1986, a committee to study the possible acquisition of property belonging to New Salem Academy was established and its members duly appointed by the Board. The charge to the committee is as follows:..."to research the NSA properties in part or on wholefor use by the town, and to see how the acquisition could be arranged," The charge further requested that a report be available to the Selectmen before the next annual town meeting. The report is now available.

BLOOD PRESSURE GAUGE--Jeanne Clayton (left), chair of the New Salem Council on Aging, presents Althea Gilmore, director of the New Salem Public Library, with blood pressure equipment recently purchased by the council. Equipment will be kept at the library where Mrs. Gilmore, a registered nurse, takes blood pressures every Wednesday 3-8 p.m. or at other times when she is in the library, free of charge.

THE CRACKER BARREL

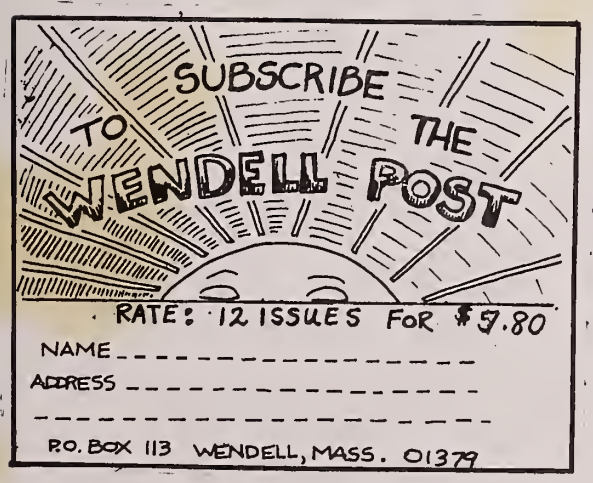
Gleanings from the Country Store

While working for Tillie Burnett last summer, I had occasion to help finish the work that was being done on Lester Cook's house. Tillie and I arrived at Cook's every morning at 8 a.m. only to see Mr. Cook behind the handles of his rototiller hard at work. "My God," I thought. "He's got to be all of eighty years old and still putting in a harder day's work than I could at 43!" I really wanted to get to know this amazing old gentleman. And so it went. Mr. Cook, Cookie to all his friends, never failed to take time out from his day's work to be neighborly and stop and chit-chat. I soon found Mr. Cook to be one of the most even tempered, friendliest people I have met in a long while. He never was lost to come up with a downright funny story. His outlook on life and his wisdom allows him to view almost all things in a humorous vein. I soon found there ain't anything old about Cookie at all. His heart and mind are as young and joyous as yours or mine and probably more so. One thing that used to give Cookie fits of laughter was me and Tillie working together. Tillie didn't have much patience with me, being the hard taskmaster he is and me being more than slow to catch on to his methods. I no sooner screwed something up than Tillie was all over me like a bad suit. The air turned blue with four-letter words and out of the corner of my eye I could see old Cookie chuckling away. Well, Cookie got a kick out of me and Tillie going back and forth. Cookie came up to me one day and told me a story about a man he once worked for who also took him to task for errors. I think Mr. Cook was trying to tell me to hang in there and I appreciated his support. I no longer work with Tillie and in some ways regret it because he can be a good ole boy when he wants to be. I do, however, see Mr. Cook at the country store two or three times a week and we sit and chat over coffee.

There's only one thing wrong with this story. Mr. Cook and wife are selling their place and heading back to the Berkshires. I know Mr. Cook really wants to get back there; it's where he grew up. I'm happy he's going and sad at the same time. He's a truly special and unique person and I will miss him. You get a lot more at the country store than what you pay for.

Next issue -- The Wendell tornado

Richard Alves



Selectmen's Minutes

Janurary 27, 1987

The meeting is called to order at 7:00 with Chair Idoine and Selectman Slavas present.

Signed weekly warrants.

The Board had a meeting with the Board of Health and discussed the HERCO Contract. Wendell has not yet received the Extended Service Contract and until it is received, the service Wendell has now is not binding.

Rick Drohen informed the board of land available for the Fire Station Garage project. Rick will follow up on the lead.

The closing day for the Annual Town meeting warrant is March 31, 1987. at 8:30p.m..

The Board met with Architects Inc. of Northampton. Discussion included: regulations of DEQE; Major concerns of pollution; Bercher consulting firm; Fiberglass oil tank (fairley inert to anything except punctures; Architects Inc. willingness to work meet frequently with Town Officials; guarantees-everything in "specs" guaranteed for one yr. membrane roofing for ten yrs; stainless steel roofing for 20 yrs. sloped shingled 25 yrs. Architects Inc. believes that the Town can have what it wants for 185,000.00 The Board will get back to them.

February 3, 1987

Meeting is called to order at 7:00 with full Board present. Also present are: Sharon Gensler, Bev Cowdrick, Georgina Kish, Deb Radway, Harry Williston, Board of Health Members.

Signed weekly warrants.

Kerry Dietz Architects from Springfield presented his proposal for the town Garage/Fire Station. Discussion covered various things from structures to guarantees, to cooperation with Town Officials. The Board will get back to them.

Deb Radway informed the Board that DEQE turned down the Holyoke site for dumping. HERCO may denied because of it. They discussed the problems with the current billing system The Board of Health feels the Town should be careful when changing the system. But, in order to get credit for past overpayments the Town must change the system. The Board of Health wrote a letter to Commercial regarding this. Deb Radway will prepare all paper work and wait for a response from commercial.
Future of the Dump: Mandatory Recycling? The Board of Health will research the possibility, appoint a committee and get back to the Board of Selectmen with a completed report at the end of a year.
Research Committee appointees; Sharon Gensler, Bev Cowdrick, and Nina Keller.

The Boards discussed the problem of no one being at the dump during open hours. Dumping has increased by 1/3. It's possible that other Towns are dumping in Wendell. The Board suggested Jessie Wetherby ask New Salem to take some of Swift Rivers trash. They also discussed the possibility of charging a fee to Maple Valley and Camp Anderson.

The Board will meet with Deb Radway and the Finance Committee Feb. 17, 1987 in FinComs office during their regular meeting.

The board received a letter from Franklin, Hampden, Hamshire Conservation Districts regarding the Open Space Plan. The Open Space committee informed the board that Wendell has been selected for financial and Technical assistance under the Open Space & Recreation Planning Assistance Program. The Conservation Districts have set aside 18,000 for Wendell. This money will be used for consultant time. The consultant will be provided by CCD approved expenses.

February 10,1987

The meeting is called to order at 7:00 with full Board present.

Signed weekly warrants.

Received a letter of intent to sell from Mr. & Mrs. Powling via Town Counsel. All land in Chapter 61A must be offered to the Town for first revusal.

The board set Tuesday Feb. 24th at 7:45 for meeting with Austin Architects.

Meeting with the Finance Committee, discussed Swift River budget additional grant item. They dicussed the need for more space for the treasurer and Tax Collector, and having a 1 000 from EOCD for the project.
Carolyn Manley was appointed Finance Comm. member.
Doug Tanner is a possible candidate for the Assessor position .
Discussed combining Town offices, and moving the Selectmen from the downstairs office to the upstairs office.

February 12, 1987

Meeting is called to order at 7:00 with Selectmen Slavas and Lewis present. Also present were Deb Radway, Rick Drohen, Joe Hartjens, and Everett Ricketts, Marianne Sundell.

Discussed Architects. Reviewed proposals. Finalists - Joe Matti,and Kitchell and Austin Inc.
Kitchell - Austin uses C.T. Male as engineer but, can also use County engineer. The County can do site design totally. Deb Radway to follow up and get county in touch with FmHA engineer.

The Board voted 2-0 to award Architect Services for the combined Highway Garage/Fire Station project to Kitchell and Austin, Inc. of Amherst.

February 17, 1987

Meeting is called to order at 7:00 with full Board present. Signed weekly warrants.

Board discussed office space for the Town Clerk, Treasuer, Tax Collector. They discussed combining Treasurer and Tax Collector positions. They also discussed increasing the possibility of hiring an assistant for the Town and paying a salary of $10,000.

The Board discussed moving of Town Hall offices to include a space for the Collector of Taxes and Treasurer. The Board will send out a letter to all boards affected by any moves in Town Hall and request they inform the Selectboard of their needs for equipment, such as locking cabinets, etc.

Deb Radway informed the board of the job description for the Inspector of buildings. She suggested the Town join the Franklin County cooperative Building Inspector Program at least for a short time, to train the Building Inspector how to enforce the zoning by-laws.

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Selectmen's Minutes Cont'

February 24, 1987Meeting is called to order at 7:00 with

Meeting is called to order at 7:00 with Chair Idoine and Selectman Slavas present.

Signed weekly warrants.

Discussed a dog complaint on Gate lane. New Salem has received 6 complaint against dogs in the area in the last year they haven't had any in the last six months. Chairman Idoine called the dog officer to discuss the problem.

The Board scheduled a hearing for assigning the Residential Tax factor, for March 17, at 7:30 P.M.. The Assessors asked for a factor of "1".

Received a letter from the Dept. of Food and Agriculture requesting the Inspector of Animals send quarantine reports monthly.

The Board voted unanimously to enter executive session at 8:06 for a meeting with Bill Austin.

Discussed dimensions of the salt shed; and liability; aesthetics. Liability; min. lyr. coverage for 100,000 with 5,000 deductable & with 10,000 fee.
Executive session ended 8:45

March 3, 1987

Meeting is called to order at 7:00 with full Board present.

Signed weekly warrants.

Received a letter from Steve Judge Franklin County Building Inspector requesting a meeting with the Selectboard to clear up any misconceptions they may have about the FCBI program. Steve Judge is responding to an article in the Recorder. Meeting is set for March 24th.

Received a letter from Senator Whetmore informing the Board he has filed the requested legislation with Representative Carmen Buell on behalf of the Town for a "home rule" Land Bank. The clerk will send a copy to the Conservation Commission.

Doug Huntington reserved the Town Hall for April 10, 1987 to have a dance.

Finance Committee discussed the plans they have for the Towns finances.

George Jones submitted a formal dog complaint The Board will set up a hearing for the owner of the dogs on March 10th at 7:45.

Board received a letter from John E. Wright of Athol requesting he be considered for the Electric Inspector position. The board will consider him.

The Attorney General returned the imcomplete submission of the Town vote of the October sixteenth meeting, Town by-laws. He gave the Planning board one more chance to get it right.

Robert Perrill requested the Town Hall for Maple Valley, a private party on April 2nd. Approved.

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March 10, 1987

Meeting is called to order at 7:00 with full Board present. Signed weekly warrants.

Doug Tanner is appointed Assessor until the May 4 election. He was informed he will need nomination papers signed so he could be put on the ballot.

Selectman Slavas submitted a letter of resignation. He will continue to assist the Board. His resignation will be effective May 4.

Joe Hartjens discussed with the Board the concerns of the detour at Wendell Depot, rating limits of the bridge and posting signs for closed secondary roads.

Discussed office moves. Board received no responses from other Boards concerning the move.

Regina Howarth reserved the Town Hall for a meeting with Leonard Lubinsky and Mr. Knowland, Superintendant of Mahar to discuss the future of seventh and eigth graders.

No show for dog hearing.

March 17, 1987

Meeting is called to order at 7:00 with full board present. Signed weekly warrants.

Residential Factor Hearing: The Residential factor is set at 1.0 for fiscal year 88. The Board and Assessors decided to stay with one class until perhaps the revaluation.

Roland Nutter; re: Rte 2 detour thru Wendel Depot. Chair Idoine requested Wendell be involved in the planning and decisions concerning any detour through Wendell. The Road Commission is concerned about the stress on the Depot Bridge if the detour does come over it. Chair Idoine will set up a meeting with the MDPW and the Orange Selectmen.

Farley Bridge: The plans for rebuilding are at the Historical Society. Joe Hartjens assures the Board that it will get approval.

Deb Radway met with Austin, Krawczyk and FmHA Krawczyk feels he can do the necessary site design/engineering. FmHA feels the site is prime agriculture land and will have the Soil Conservation Service make a determination. If it is prime agriculture land it may be beneficial to the Town to get a commercial loan. Chair Idoine asked Rick Drohen to check with commerical banks for the differance between 20 and 25 year loans. Drohen agreed to.

Road Commission informed the board of a Mass General Law, Chapter 85, Section 30 . Limit to 5 ton load on all roads.

Board discussed the list of questions for the meeting with Steve Judge, County Bldg. Inspector.

Discussed Building town offices instead of remodeling the fire Dept. Station.

The meeting is recessed until March 19, @ 7.

March 19, 1987

Meeting with full Board, Joe Hartjens, Rick Drohen and William Austin.

Discussed concerns over the lack of liability on the architect's part. Town counsel feels uneasy with it. Meeting with him is set for March 23rd.

Discussed salt sheds, maps,building site plan etc.

March 24, 1987

The meeting is called to order with full Board present at 7:00. Signed weekly warrants.

Received a letter of approval from the Division of Animal Health, Mabel A. Owen for the appointment of Janet Mankowsky.
Received a letter from Donald Marquis Town of Arlington , informing the Board that the claims from the Local Aid Commission are that the State is reimbursing 40% of growth taxes to cities and Towns.

Wendell Depot Bridge is rated at 37½ tons. Joe Hartjens said the bridge was rated in nineteen eighty.

FmHA informed the Board that the building site for the Fire Station/Garage is not prime agriculture land. This will save the Town 3% in interest charges.

Town Hall was reserved by the Arts Council for April 16th and 23rd.

Received a letter if intent to sell 7/8 acre of Chapter 61A land. The law requires the Town have the right of first refusal. Chair Idoine made a motion to refuse the offer. Selectmen Lewis seconded. Unaminous

Meeting with Steve Franklin County Cooperative Building Inspector , Planning Board, and Inspector of Buildings. Steve Judge informed the Boards of FCCIB program policies and procedures. He offered to send Wendell's Inspector of Buildings a package of information that may be helpful to him. April 7th was set for a meeting with the Planning Board and Inspector of Buildings to set bldg rates.

Chair Idoine requested the Clerk call the Boards affected by the Town office move since she didn't send the notice of the move to them.

The Board voted unaminous to call a special election for a proposition 2½ override, for the current fiscal year. (86/87)

The Board submitted to the Finance Committee a request for transfer of 1,000.00 from the reserve account to pay the retainer for architectural services.
The finance committee approved the transfer.

March 31, 1987

Meeting is called to order at 7 p.m. with Ted Lewis and Jim Slavas present; Michael Idoine is in Boston.

Signed weekly warrants.

The board discussed the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

Discussed and sent the petition to the County Commissioners for the discontinuance of some county roads.

Discussed concerns about the Rt. 2 and Depot detour and preparations for the meeting tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Regina Howarth, Clerk
Wendell Selectboard

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